

Remarks

This Amendment has revised the application such that it is now believed to be in allowable condition for reasons more specifically discussed below.

Claim 18 has been cancelled such that the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. 112 is now moot.

Also, claim 14 has been revised so as to provide proper antecedent basis for claim 15, such that the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112 has now been overcome.

Furthermore, by a separate paper, Figures 1 and 2 have been amended. Amended Figure 1 more clearly illustrates the positioning of slipper member side projection 115 in the associated groove 105. Amended Figure 1, has an addition reference numeral 106 illustrating the other groove, schematically shows the other slipper member projection 116, and has one of the notch reference numbers changed from "108" to "118" to correct a prior error.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable for reasons more specifically discussed below such that this generic claim as well as all of its remaining dependent claims 2-17 are properly considered in the application despite the prior species election requirement.

The present invention involves a load transfer device 100 that can be attached to or detached from an elongate support 250 element along which the device travels. The device 100 includes first and second spaced apart rotary members designated by 101 and 102 in Figure 1. A slipper member 110 extends between the rotary members 101 and 102 and defines a space 150 for receiving the elongate support element 250. An attachment 300 attaches a load to the device and is shown in Figure 3 in a blocking or closed condition as well as being shown in Figure 4 in an open or release condition. At least one notch 117, 118 is provided in each of the rotary members 101, 102. In the blocking position as shown in Figure

3, a movable link assembly blocks access to notches 117, 118 by the elongated support element 250, but in the release position of Figure 4 these notches are accessible by the elongated support element to permit rotation of the slipper member 110 with respect to the rotary members for attachment or detachment of the device from the elongated support element without any movement of the rotary members away from each other along their common axis.

The prior art does not teach or suggest a load transfer device whose rotary members have notches in association with an attachment of the construction recited with a movable link assembly that provides the blocking position and release position so that the device can be attached or released in the manner claimed.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's position that claim 1 and hence its dependent claims 2-17 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102 or obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103 in view of the PCT International Published application WO 96/02456 of Flux. Flux discloses rotary members, enclosed by covers 203 and 204, and a control catch 230 that selectively prevents or permits movement of the covered rotary members toward and away from each other between the positions of Figures 3 and 4. In the opened position of Figure 4, the elongate member 290 can be received between the starwheels after they have been moved away from each other from the position of Figure 3.

The present invention as recited by claim 1 and hence its dependent claims 2-17 provides at least one notch in each of the rotary members and the movable link assembly of the access that provides the blocking position to prevent access of the elongate support member to the notches and the release position in which it allows such access without movement of the rotary members away from each other along their common axis.

The other prior art of record also fails to teach or in any way disclose a load transfer device having rotary members and a slipper member with an attachment having a movable link assembly that operates between a blocking position and a release position to

prevent or permit access of the elongated support member to the notches of the rotary members in the manner claimed.

It is thus believed that all of the claims 1-17 distinguish over the prior art and are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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